

Palaeolithic

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The memorable international conference “DUAL SYMPOSIA” was held jointly with “Symposium on the Emergence and Diversity of Modern Human Behavior in Palaeolithic Asia” and “The 4th Annual Meeting of the Asian Palaeolithic Association” at the National Museum of Nature and Science in Ueno, Japan.

The interdisciplinary project “Replacement of Neanderthals by Modern Humans (RNMH)” has been conducted from 2010. Two conferences were held this year and the subjects on cultural evolutionary rate, social and individual learning, and creativity of the Neanderthals and modern humans were discussed.

The earliest occupation of the Japanese islands has been the most important issue of the Japanese Palaeolithic studies since the “Early and Middle Palaeolithic” hoax. The special issues of this subject were published: ‘The beginning and antiquity of the Japanese Palaeolithic (Nihon kyusekki-jidai no hajimari to furusa)’ (*Archaeological Journal*, No. 618), ‘Origin of human cultures in the Japanese archipelago (Nihon-reto no jinrui-bunka ha dokomade sakanoboruka)’ (*Miyagi Kokogaku*, Vol. 13), and ‘Identification methods of artifacts (Ibutsu-nintei no hoho)’ (*Archaeological Journal*, No. 614).

The special issue of *the Paleoanthropology* presents recent significant progress of this study and new insights into the history of the human evolution.

Considerable numbers of papers, proceedings, and books were published this year, too. The book, *Environment and Cultural History of the Upper Palaeolithic and the Jomon Period* written by KUDO Yuichiro (Tokyo: Shinsensha) provides numerous radiocarbon dates recovered from the comprehensive Late Palaeolithic sites in the Japanese islands. The book is useful and must be referred to repeatedly.

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